

ABSTRACT:

The present invention relates to a method of processing an input digital video signal (IS) so as to provide a modified digital video signal (MS) for a motion estimation step (ME). Said processing method comprises the steps of computing (HIS) a histogram (h) of original values associated with pixels belonging to a video frame contained in said input digital video signal, analyzing (ANA) the histogram to provide histogram parameters (hp), and correcting (COR) the original pixel values on the basis of the histogram parameters to provide modified pixel values, which yields the modified digital video signal to be used by the motion estimation step. If required, this processing method may also comprise a step of filtering (FIL) the modified digital video signal so as to provide a filtered modified digital video signal (FMS) for the motion estimation step. Such a processing method is adaptive to the content of the input digital video signal and allows the motion estimation step to provide better motion vectors for the purpose of encoding. Use: video encoder

10 Fig. 1